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Last Comic Standing entertains and enlightens at USFSP | pages 4 & 5

Does the movie "Borat" live up to all the hype?  
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Virtual world to change reality?

by MIKE COLAPIETRO
ccontributing writer

A virtual world is being rapidly populated on the Internet, challenging the traditional concept of a video game and changing the way people interact. In "Second Life" players join virtual communities where imagination is the only limit to creation. First-time users create a character, called an avatar, in which to travel the metaphysical universe, or "metaverse" as it is called in "SL."

As an avatar you are given free reign to participate in the community where your options can run anywhere from buying a virtual house to joining a virtual rock band. You could also chat with other people occupying the metaverse or head out to the club scene to dance and listen to music. There are also many live music acts in "SL" which act as real money. The currency is based in a currency called Linden dollars, and is known as "SL." Linden dollars allow a user to buy whatever is for sale in "SL" this includes land, houses, clothes, guns or even a virtual lap dance. The Metaverse Stock Exchange sells stocks of publicly-owned companies within the virtual world.

"SL" has also been shown to be a world where savvy users can earn big bucks. Business Week reported that avatar Anshe Chung, who owns a real estate business in "SL," has amassed property and cash worth $250,000. Business Week called her the "Rockefeller of Second Life."

Nicola Paronetto is an Italian architect who has worked in 3-D modeling since he was 15. He found out about "SL" in August on the radio while driving and decided to check it out. Paronetto joined and created an avatar named Vittorio Barbarino. Paronetto quickly learned how to get around in "SL" how to build and how to build. He eventually built a studio, named it "VITTO AND C" and filled it with examples of his real work and virtual creations. Paronetto is currently seeking a large parcel of land to start construction on virtual models of his actual architecture which he believes will help in publicizing his talent.

"When I started to know this strange virtual world, I found a good place to show my works to the entire world, making friends and new opportunities," said Paronetto.

The Electric Sheep Company develops interactive environments and events for "SL." In a recent project working with MLB.com, the Sheep created a virtual model of the new yet-to-be-built Yankee Stadium and held a baseball game.

**See virtual worlds, page 8**
ELECTION 2006 FOLLOWUP

The election and things

by SCOTT WACHTLER
staff writer

I've had a lot to give thanks for this month. Three of the five most annoying issues in my life have been addressed, and for that I am thankful.

First and foremost, we as a nation finally unloaded a do-nothing institution that was an embarrassment to the county, caused a rift among our people, and was the cause of undue suffering worldwide... thank you Clinton for unloading K-Fed! Po-Po: PO WON! Hopefully, Clinton can now attention on her art and/or a Playboy spread. (BTW: Does anyone know how I can be sure that readers recognize this as sarcasm?)

Okay, all kidding aside, after six years of being a political cynic that had me questioning the intelligence of the common voter, I finally have something to be happy for. After two race thin elections where my choices lost, it feels good to be on a winning team again.

The democrats' victory in the House and the Senate overshadowed Charlie Crist's win for me. I strongly disagreed with the Governor-Elect's stance on the FCAAT and taxes, but you can't win them all.

If the end of talentless, lump-like K- and a republican-controlled congress wasn't enough, more good news came a day later when President Bush, after a nice helping of humble pie, did what he should have done months ago: The Decider decided to "pull a Clinton" and divorced himself from Donald Rumsfeld.

Even with all that good news, there are still injustices in the world that need to be righted.

Can somebody tell me what the heck is with models dressing up in fat suits to show the world what we already know? Unless you're a beautiful model, most people don't want anything to do with you. "Entertainment Tonight" and Tyra Banks both attempted to show what it's like to be ugly under the guise of a social experiment. Poor Tyra and the other girls once they put on the fat suit and ugly makeup, nobody gave them the time of day. Only the two "uglies" and candidates for "America's Next Top Model" were shocked.

This staff is so wrong, on so many levels, there's not enough room to write about it here.

One other thing: enough with the brainwashing bragging that they 'get' Borat. Nobody wants to think that they could be fooled by him. Here's the thing: you can't say you couldn't be "gotten" without ever having been placed into the same situations. If you don't acknowledge that part of Sasha Baron Cohen's act, you minimize his genius, so stop it... please.

Maybe those same brainwashed can answer these questions: If we are surrounded by so many geniuses, why the hell is "Dead or No Deal" so damn popular? Who keeps greo-lighting "Fast and Furious" movies? Why is "America's Funniest Home Videos" STILL on the air? Finally: What about "Two and a Half Men"?

But there is hope. Voters united and changed the direction of Congress. More surprisingly, we actually made our famously deaf-to-popular-opinion president listen... for once.

For that, we should all be thankful.

> Scott Wachter is a journalism major in the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at USF St. Petersburg. Scott can be reached at swachter@comcast.net.

Democrats must build consensus

by BRYAN W. WHITE
assistant editor

The Democrats won the House and the Senate.

We'll as good as dead. Okay, I'm more hopeful than that, but I agree with agreed Democrat and author Orson Scott Card that the war on terrorism was the most important issue in this election. Like Card, I have little confidence that congressional Democrats have a realistic conception of the stakes lying on the table in Iraq. I take solace in the wake of the election by supposing that Demagoguing rhetoric concerning the war was insincere; that the rhetoric was primarily meant to provide political leverage against conservatives.

I optimistically hope that the consensus of congressional Democrats will support policies closer to Joe Lieberman than Jack Murtha.

Whatever one opinion about the reasons for military interventions in Iraq, the situation in the Middle East today shapes up as a pivotal moment in history. The perception of a defeat of Western forces in Iraq would certainly embolden enemies of the West, as the pullout from Somalia inspired Osama bin Laden to regard the United States as a paper tiger.

Bin Laden said as reported by PBS: "However, when tens of our soldiers were killed in minor battles and one American Pilot was dragged in the streets of Mogadishu you left the area carrying disappointment, humiliation, defeat and your dead with you. Clinton appeared in front of the whole world threatening and promising revenge, but these threats were merely a preparation for withdrawal."

Whether Americans wish to face the reality or not, a new kind of warfare has emerged, a type of warfare that makes James Bond-style world domination plots feasible exercises for the cryptocrats so inclined. Expecting the cryptocrats to behave reasonably is no defense.

Both political parties now serve structured constituencies, and in a pattern of American misguided multiculural ideal building consensus out of a patchwork tends not to work. The more patches, the more difficult the consensus -- especially with respect to basic worldview concepts.

Congressional Democrats will now have to produce ideas. They will have to make sure concrete solutions as to how the nation should proceed. Not only that, they will have to build leadership coalitions in order to craft the legislation and guide it through committees and floor votes.

Go home the days when they can simply take a policy holiday by sticking with criticisms of what the other party is doing -- at least until 2008.

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ABOUT > The Crow's Nest is a student-run publication that has served the faculty, staff and students of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg since 1949. The newspaper is published in the fall and spring semesters and contains news stories, features and entertainment pieces we believe are of interest to our readership. Since spring 2000, The Crow's Nest has been published on a weekly basis. The Crow's Nest is funded each semester by a portion of revenue generated from Activities and Services fees as well as advertising revenue. The continued support of the paper is essential to providing the campus with an unfiltered look at the issues affecting it and the surrounding area.

DISTRIBUTION > We distribute 1,000 copies of the newspaper each Wednesday to the various departments around campus. If The Crow's Nest is not being delivered to a location near you, please contact us at safesnownest@yahoo.com or (727) 873-4113, and we will make sure to living copies to your area.

SUBMISSIONS > If you have an article you'd like to submit for our consideration, send it to safesnownest@yahoo.com as an .rtf or .doc attachment. You can also leave a copy of the article in the Crow's Nest mailbox, located in the Club room in the Campus Activity Center. We welcome submissions from faculty, staff and students alike.

LETTERS > The Crow's Nest welcomes letters to the editor. To be considered for publication, letters must be 150 words or less. Please include full name, position (e.g., student, faculty, etc.), e-mail and telephone number for verification purposes only. E-mail letters to the editor at safesnownest@yahoo.com. If a letter is selected for publication, it will be reworded in any way it must be cut for length. The author will be contacted. Letters are chosen at the discretion of the editorial board.
Comedian Josh Blue, 27, bounces to service USF St. Petersburg Mass Communications major Leanna Bol­ yard, 21, referring to her as his "Make a Wish." Blue, a 27-year-old from Den­ ver, Colo. with cere­ bral palsy, per­ formed as part of USF St. Petersburg's Disability Aware­ ness Week Nov. 9.

This was not Josh Blue's first college campus show. "I love college shows," Blue told the audi­ ence from the Cam­ pus Activities Cen­ ter stage. His comic­ dy debut was dur­ ing his sophomore year in college. "For some really weird reason, I'm comfort­ able up here."

Comedian Josh Blue autographed CDs and posed for photo­ graphs after per­ forming his routine Thursday night.

Blue signed CDs that were sold after his performance, which sold for ten dollars each. Because he is not able to control the muscles in his right hand due to cere­ bral palsy, he signs with his left.

A Jerry Brock and his wife Jynnifer Brock pose for a photograph with comedian Josh Blue and USF student gov­ ernment senator Amanda Sklar. "I laughed so hard I cried," said Jynnifer Brock after the performance. "I had to keep wipe­ ing my eyes so I could see."
Last Comic Standing mixes message with laughs

by LEANNA BOLYARD

Comedian Josh Blue has taken his act from television to USF St. Petersburg. The latest winner of NBC's "Last Comic Standing" performed on campus Nov. 9, as part of the university's third annual Disability Awareness Week.

Blue said he took home $8 of the $50,000 owed - after taxes. He also admitted that his favorite comedian is ... Josh Blue. Lalanta Seeders, student assistant for Student Disability Services, was recovering from surgery at her mother's house when she turned on "Last Comic Standing." When she saw Blue and noted that he has Cerebral Palsy, she immediately contacted Barry McDowell, Coordinator for Student Disability Services.

"Disability Awareness Week is my thing," said Seeders. "It's amazing that we got such a big name here."

McDowell confounded Blue with a question from "Saved by the Bell."

"Guess that I am, I didn't know who Josh Blue was," he said.

McDowell said that the purpose of Disability Awareness Week is to make people aware that disabilities are not something more than a cultural difference.

While Blue uses his disability as part of his act, Seeders said Blue was making people aware, not making fun of disabilities.

The comedian provided a serious moment when he informed the crowd about Cerebral Palsy.

"It's something you're born with. It doesn't get better. It doesn't get worse," he said.

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke defines Cerebral Palsy as a neurological disorder that affects muscle movement.

According to the institute, the most common effects are lack of coordination when performing voluntary movement, exaggerated reflexes and stiff muscles.

USF St. Petersburg has featured persons with different disabilities in each year of the event. In 2006, Ms. Florida, Shauna Pender, headlined after being disfigured in a nearly-fatal accident last year. This year, the event was attended by the U.S. Paralympics Wheelchair Rugby National Team.

"This year, the turn out was better than last year and the year before," said Seeders.

Blue turned out for an interview after the show, and his sense of humor turned out with him.

"This is my 'Make A Wish.' If I had another 'Make A Wish,' I might do things differently," he said as he made eye contact.

"Have you ever been with a cripple?" he asked. "Do you want to?"

Blue then went on to describe his idea of the phrase "just Joshin' you."

He made eye contact again and asked, "How about now?"

<

A private reception was held in Student Services with a CAC meeting for individuals who were inspired in making his Disability Awareness Week performance possible.

>
HEISMAN TROPHY

Ohio State – Michigan outcome should decide Heisman winner

by CHRIS WAGAR
staff writer

Last season, the Heisman Trophy race saw two thoroughbreds running neck and neck for the coveted trophy in Reggie Bush and Vince Young. The 2006 contest has been a little less inspiring.

No dear-cut champion has come through like previous years when Desmond Howard, Matt Leinart, and Carson Palmer ran away with the award for college football's best player.

Ohio State QB, Troy Smith, has held the lead over the competition for most of the season. The injury to Oklahoma running back Adrian Peterson also has not hurt Smith's campaign for No. 1.

Smith's numbers have been solid: 2,191 passing yards and 26 touchdowns with only four interceptions. Also, the Buckeyes' undefeated season raises Smith to a higher level than his competitors.

So who else figures to follow Smith into the final four?

A rarely talked about candidate to make the trip to the New York City's Downtown Athletic Club is Hawaii's Colt Brennan. The Warriors quarterback has thrown for 3,753 yards and 43 touchdowns with only seven picks.

Unfortunately, Brennan will face questions about the competition that he faces. Games against Louisiana Tech are not going to look as good to voters as much as games against Michigan and Florida.

Notre Dame's QB, Brady Quinn, has played against top-level competition this season and has performed admirably: 29 TDs, 4 INTs and a 9-1 record. You can almost assuredly pencil him in for a seat among the final four.

Texas freshman QB, Colt McCoy, may have had the biggest shoes to fill of any player in the nation. His replacement of Vince Young for the reigning national champions has gone smoother than expected. McCoy has thrown 27 TDs and 4 INTs and has had his team in the top 10 for the majority of the season.

In the case of running backs, there has yet to be that one dominant performer like Reggie Bush last season. But an argument could be made for West Virginia's Steve Slaton who has carried the load for the Mountaineers amassing 1,363 yards rushing and 12 TDs. Unfortunately for Slaton, many voters will remember his two fumbles in the third quarter against Louisville that cost his team the game. His chances to win the Heisman might have vanished, but with a quick rebound, he still could finish in the top 5.

If I had a vote, it would come down to Ohio State's showdown with Michigan. If the Buckeyes are victorious and Smith has a good game, hand him the trophy. But if Michigan pulls off an upset, Quinn should take home the hardware.

The Heisman Trophy will be awarded on Dec. 9.

Chris Wagar is a journalism major in the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at SFSU. Chris can be reached at wagar21@hotmail.com.

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22 Camel feature
24 Provider of veritas
25 Splitloon
29 Before
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32 Brazilian port city
33 Truth
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35 Eternally
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37 First word of many
38 Cling to
39 "Zounds!
40 Look-alikes, idiomatically
41 Boo Boo's mentor
42 Pomp
43 Favorable vote
44 Lennon's lady
45 Skedaddled
46 Detailed map
47 Exam format
48 Literary collection
49 Vortex
50 Dresses in

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8 Trattoria seafood entree
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24 Provider of veritas
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33 Truth
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35 Eternally
36 Songs of praise
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38 Cling to
39 "Zounds!
40 Look-alikes, idiomatically
41 Boo Boo's mentor
42 Pomp
43 Favorable vote
44 Lennon's lady
45 Skedaddled
46 Detailed map
47 Exam format
48 Literary collection
49 Vortex
50 Dresses in

Weekly Sudoku

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

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Where computers go to die

by CAITLIN KULEC
contributing writer

Something was amiss in the Florida Center for Teachers. Gone were the old Macintosh computers and monitors that had lined the walls of Room 107. In their place were 21 glowing white Macs.

"The time had come for those computers to go," said Dr. Tony Silva, director of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies, citing "daily complaints and daily crises" as the reason for the departure of the older computers three weeks ago.

Apple Computer describes its iMac as "the quintessential all-in-one computer." It is built into the 24-inch monitor with only a mouse and keyboard as separate components. It boasts a Dux processor, which allows it to run the Mac operating system as well as Windows.

"We are trying to satisfy two constituencies," Silva said.

While a large number of people on campus use PCs, there are some tasks that are better suited to Macs, such as designing a page layout or editing photos, Silva said.

But what happened to the old computers?

"They're slowly being given to people on this campus," said Bridget Nichols, office manager for the journalism department, and for now, the guardian of the old Macs.

Nichols said that four of the computers would be set up in Poynter Library, and that one will end up with the maintainers of the USE FCT 107 until they find new homes.

Cohen - hilarious as Borat

by RYAN TREACY
contributing writer

In the film "Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan," the character of Borat is a wild and crazy reporter just trying to fit in with American culture.

Borat, the character created and performed by Sacha Baron Cohen, comes from Kazakhstan. Borat believes that Jews are evil shape-shifters, Gypsy tears can cure AIDS, and tape players are the new fad. He comes off as a racist, sexist and completely clueless...and I could not stop laughing at him. He is sent by his country to film a documentary to better learn the ways of American culture.

The way he learns about our culture is priceless because his view of the world is so different from those he interviews and because he so completely lacks knowledge of American ways. Borat is surprised to learn that women don't have a brain the size of a squirrel's, that a hotel elevator is not a guest room, and that a turban is not a kind of dog.

Borat comes to America, and after watching "Baywatch" on television his first night, he falls in love with Pamela Anderson. He then begins a journey to Los Angeles to meet his "Baywatch" beauty and arrange their marriage. His journey across America becomes quite possibly the most memorable trip possible.

There were many funny things about this film.

First of all, I have to give props to Sacha Baron Cohen for his portrayal of Borat. Cohen, an Englishman, speaks with an outrageous Croatian accent which adds to his impeccable comic timing. Cohen has appeared for weeks on late night TV and morning shows as Borat, which has produced some memorable moments such as his wrestling match against Harry Smith of "The Early Show".

In the film, every town and every person that Borat meets results in a funny moment. He visits a local television news station, where he completely disrupts the weather man's forecast. He travels to Times Square and almost gets beaten up for greeting some harsh New Yorkers with a kiss. He sings the Kazakhstan national anthem to the tune of the United States national anthem, which causes massive headaches and boozing at a rodeo. He takes an ettanese class and attends a dinner with a church group, to which he brings a prostitute. He goes to various upscale hotels and even a Civil War antique store where he causes the owner some stress by destroying some priceless memorabilia. Each scenario ends with hilarious results; the film draws much of its hilarity from the varied reactions to Borat.

The movie is filmed as a mockumentary, using real people as well as actors. This makes it funnier; it is sometimes impossible to tell who was acting and who was just used for laughs by Borat's antics.

Overall, this is a very, very funny movie; quite possibly the funniest movie I've seen this year. Although it is a good comedy, many people might be offended by the raco and mockery humor. If you are easily offended, I would not recommend this movie. Otherwise, definitely go see what all the hype is about.